

Moses Shoemaker Farm (Dimmick Ferry Farm)
West side Old Mine Road
Millbrook Vicinity
Pahaquarry Township
Warren County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-824

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PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. NJ-824

MOSES SHOEMAKER FARM
(Dimmick Ferry Farm)

Location:

West side of Old Mine Road, 2.8 miles south of Shoemakers, PA., Millbrook vicinity, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.497400.4552670.

Present Owner:

United States Government.

Present Use:

All structures demolished by 1973.

Significance:

The structure of the Moses Shoemaker Farm served as one of two major hotels for raftsmen at "Shoemakers Eddy" during the nineteenth century. At this site, the proprietor operated a ferry, from the establishment of this complex until 1938.

Now on the farm is the main house, the original portion of which may date from 1815, a small house, and a ca. 1830 frame bank barn.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The central portion of the main structure on the Moses Shoemaker Farm is the original building. The simplicity of its construction is typical of rural structures built during the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century. The original building was probably erected between 1815 and 1828. If located on Lot 7, it was undoubtedly the work of Moses Shoemaker; if built on either Lots 1 or 2, it must be attributed to another Shoemaker. The smaller structure, which stands a few yards north of the main structure, was probably built ca. 1835.
2. Architect, builder: John Turn (1783-1867), "House Carpenter", was brother-in-law to Moses Shoemaker, and may have assisted in the construction at the site. (See John Turn House, HABS No. PA-1274). Moses Shoemaker, and his family, were probably responsible for most of the construction on the farm; the inventory drawn after Moses Shoemaker's death indicates the presence of lumber and carpenter's tools on the premises.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Reference is to the Records Rooms of the County Clerk and Surrogate of Warren County, New Jersey, unless otherwise noted.

- 1826 Orphans Court Minutes, August 1826 Term
Book 1, page 19
Notice: Henry Shoemaker died seized of 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres in Pahaquarry Township, bounded by lands of Samuel Shoemaker (son), Moses Shoemaker (son), the Delaware River, and heirs of William Plumsted; notice is given to Margaret Shoemaker, widow, of intent to divide real estate.
- 1826 Deed: 9 Aug. 1826 Recorded 22 Aug. 1926
Book 2, page 336
Margaret Shoemaker, widow of Henry Shoemaker, of Pahaquarry Township, New Jersey
to
Daniel Shoemaker and other heirs of Henry Shoemaker
Consideration: \$800.
Acreage: 33 $\frac{1}{4}$.
Grant: right of dower.
- 1826 Orphans Court Minutes, August Term, 1826
Book of Divisions, vol. 1, page 47-49
Notice: Division of Real Estate of Henry Shoemaker, deceased
Grant: Lot No. 1 to Mary Jayne, No. 2 to John Shoemaker, No. 3 to Daniel Shoemaker, No. 4 to Sarah Rosenkranz, No. 5 to Susannah Decker, No. 6 to July Ann Turn, No. 7 to Moses Shoemaker (49 and 75/100 acres), No. 8 to Samuel Shoemaker.
Surveyed October 2-4, 1826.
- 1843 Deed: August, 1843 Recorded 24 Oct. 1843
Book 22, page 270
John Shoemaker et ux., Mary, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.
to
Moses Shoemaker, of Pahaquarry Township, New Jersey
Consideration: \$600.
Acreage: 39.
Consideration: "Being lot No. 2 in the division of land of late Henry Shoemaker, Esq. to John Shoemaker, son of Henry."

- 1843 Deed: 18 August 1843 Recorded 24 Oct. 1843
Book 22, page 271
Daniel Jayne and Mary, ux., of Middle Smithfield Township,
Pa.
to
Moses Shoemaker, of Pahaquarry Township, New Jersey
Consideration: \$600.
Acreage: 45.56.
Grant: "Being lot No. 1 in the division of real
estate of Henry Shoemaker of Warren, given to Mary
Jayne."
- 1865 Orphans Court Minutes, 1865
Book 6, page 154
Order to Show Cause: on the application of John Zimmerman,
Administrator of Moses Shoemaker, deceased; personal estate
insufficient to pay debts; 18 July 1865, Court orders
persons to show cause why should not be sold to pay debts,
on Friday 22 Sept. 1865.
- 1867 Deed: 1867 Recorded 19 March 1867
Book 67, page 113
Sarah Shoemaker, widow of Moses Shoemaker
to
Heirs of Moses Shoemaker (Henry, John V., Daniel W.,
Abraham V., Sarah V., and Maria A. Overfield)
Consideration: \$500.
Grant: "release" presumably of dower rights.
- 1868 Deed: 29 Mar. 1869 Recorded 20 Apr. 1868
Book 70, page 609
John V. Shoemaker and Elizabeth, ux., of Scranton, Luzern
County, Pa.,
to
Aaron Keyser, of Knowlton Township, New Jersey
Consideration: \$6,500.
Acreage: 4 lots.
Grant: (Lands of Moses Shoemaker, presumably obtained
by purchase, at public vendue)
- 1877 Deed: 1 April 1877 Recorded 5 March 1877
Book 99, page 345
Aaron Keyser, of Knowlton Township, New Jersey,
to
William S. Fisher and Sarah, ux., of Pahaquarry Township,
New Jersey
Consideration: \$5,500.
Acreage: 4 lots (1) 45.56 acres (2) 39 acres (3) and
(4) two island lots.
Grant: Indenture of Mortgage.

- 1881 Deed: 1881 Recorded 18 Feb. 1881
Book 112, page 556
Benjamin F. Howey, Sheriff of Warren County, New Jersey,
to
Michael Heller Dimmick
Notice: Writ of fieri facias issued, 28 Aug. 1877, in case
of Aaron Keyser vs. William and Sarah Fisher, regarding
mortgaged premises (4 lots; \$4,257.90 principal and
interest); See Book 0-5 of Executioons, p. 53; advertised
in the Blairstown Press, and Belvidere Apollo; adjourned to
4 Feb. 1881.
Consideration: \$4,475.
Acreage: 4 lots (same as 1877 Deed above).
- 1921 Letters of Administration, 17 Jan. 1921
Book 6, page 195
Notice: Peter M. Dimmick and Chauncey M. Dimmick of
Dunnfield, New Jersey, appointed administrators of estate
of Michael H. Dimmick.
[Intestate succession]
- 1922 Deed: 29 March 1922 Recorded 1 May 1922
Book 226, page 146 Document No. 3893
Chauncey M. Dimmick, guardian of Elinora Dimmick, lunatic,
to
Peter M. Dimmick
Notice: Court of Chancery orders guardian to sell
Elinora's 1/5 part, along with other heirs of Michael H.
Dimmick; reference is to sale of a farm of 110 acres by
heirs of Michael H. Dimmick, to Peter M. Dimmick (see Deed
below)
- 1922 Deed: 18 April 1922 Recorded 1 May 1922
Book 226, page 149 Document No. 3894
Chauncey M. Dimmick, Hannah S. Michaels and Luke, Victor H.
Dimmick and Mary, Vincent C. Dimmick and Carrie H., John H.
Dimmick and Ethel, Lucinda Heller and Melchor, Jennie Smith
and Luther, all of Monroe County, Pa., except Vincent and
Chauncey M. Dimmick of Pahaquarry Township, Warren Co., New
Jersey,
to
Peter M. Dimmick
Consideration: \$1. (reference in above deed, Vol.
226, page 146, cites \$4500.)
Grant: all the equal, undivided 4/5 of 4 tracts.
Acreage: (same as 1877 deed above)

1939 Deed: 1 May 1939 Recorded 2 May 1939
Book 190, page 378
Egbert Rosecrans, one of the Special Masters of the Court
of Chancery,
to
Ernest Olschewsky, and Edna, ux., of Pahaquarry Township,
New Jersey
Notice: case of Chauncey M. Dimmick v. Rosetta K. Dimmick,
widown of Peter M.; Victor H. Dimmick and Mary, Vincent C.
Dimmick and Carrie, John H. Dimmick and Ethel, Hannah S.
Michael and Luke, Jennie Smith and Luther, Lucinda Heller
and Melchoir; regarding the estate of Peter H. Dimmick; See
Belv. Apollo, Blairstown Press.

Consideration: \$4,550.

Acreage: 2 tracts (1) 45.56 acres, (2) 39 acres.

1939 Deed: 13 June 1939 Recorded 14 June 1939
Book 291, page 172
Ernest Olschewsky and Edna, of Pahaquarry Township, New
Jersey
to
Fritz A. Beyer, and Marie H., ux., of New York City.
Consideration: \$1.00.
Grant: subject to terms of lease between grantors and
Rosetta K. Dimmick, which lease expires 31 Aug. 1939.

1956 Deed: 21 Feb. 1956 Recorded 28 Feb. 1956
Book 390, page 476
Fritz A. Beyer and Marie H., ux.,
to
George Washington Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America.
Consideration: \$1.
Acreage: 2 lots, (1) 45.56 acres, (2) 39 acres.

4. Original plans and construction: At the time of Moses
Shoemaker's death in 1864 there were in addition to the main
structure and "tenant house":

"Wagon House"

"Lower Barn"

"Upper Barn" -- one of which may be the frame, bank
barn standing today

"Pig Pen" (in which lumber was stored)

"Lime Kiln and a quarry of good Lime stones on the
premises"

"Shop" (in which was stored "old Iron")

(All references except the Lime Kiln are from the
Inventory of Moses Shoemaker's property, 1864. The
Lime Kiln is mentioned in the advertisement in The
Jeffersonian).

5. Alterations and additions: A southern wing was added to the original structure, ca. 1860, and the northern wing probably much later in the nineteenth century (Walters, "The Delaware").

In 1903, a flood in the Delaware Water Gap area destroyed eleven buildings on the Dimmick Farm. One of the secondary structures standing that year was "Calno Post Office", which had been used as an assay office for the copper mines in the vicinity (Walters).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The first known resident of this site was Moses Shoemaker. Moses possessed land prior to 1826, but its location is at present unknown. In August 1826, after his father's death, Moses inherited "Lot No. 7", situated on the river, and in 1843 he purchased lots No. 1 and 2 of Henry Shoemaker's estate. Moses Shoemaker (1795-1864) married Sarah Van Campen. The Inventory of his property, drawn up in 1864, lists 9 "beds", 11 "bedsteads", 36 chairs, and numerous benches, barrels, kegs, and earthen pots, as well as "1 Ferry Flat and chains" and "1 Bateau". At what date he began these enterprises has not yet been determined. After Moses Shoemaker's death in 1864, the property was advertised for public sale by his heirs; "tract No. 1", consisting of 10⁴ acres,

"is the Homestead Farm of said deceased situate at Shoemaker's Eddy on the Delaware River, and adjoining lands of Samuel Shoemaker...The improvements are a two story Mansion House, a tenant house, two barns and other outbuildings. There is a good Ferry over the Delaware annexed to the said farm which will be sold with it. A hotel was formerly kept by the deceased on the premises and its location adjacent to the Eddy, makes it a good tavern stand. The lands are all improved and in an excellent state of cultivation, and are the best quality of river bottom lands." (The Jeffersonian)

The advertisement advised prospective buyers to "Call on Abraham Shoemaker on the premises." Moses Shoemaker's sons, Abraham Van Campen Shoemaker (b. 1826), and Daniel W. Shoemaker, conducted the Ferry from their father's death in 1864 until 1868. Abraham is said to have resided in the "old log house" (the tenant house?), and Daniel in the "the hotel." (Walters, "The Delaware").

Moses Shoemaker is known to have owned and operated "Shoemaker's Ferry" at this site, while the buildings functioned as a hotel and tavern for raftsmen.

The ferry operated continuously until 1938. During the Dimmick family's occupancy the ferry operated by the use of low and high cables, fastened around maple trees in the front yard.

The structures continued to function as a hotel under the Dimmick's ownership (Walters, interview).

C. Sources of Information:

Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Moses Shoemaker, Deceased, by John Zimmerman and others, 9 August 1964. Iventory Book 8, page 464, Warren County Courthouse, Belvidere, New Jersey.

"Public Sale of Real Estate." The Jeffersonian. Stroudsburg, 1865 (2, 9, 16, 30, November; 7, 14 December) Courtesy of Elizabeth Dimmick Walters, Curator, Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Souder, Norman. "Historic Structures, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Washington Office, Ms. Report, National Park Service, July, 1967.

Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick (Mrs. Horace). Interview, 30 July 1971, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick (Mrs. Horace). "The Delaware: Shawnee to Walpack." October, 1941. Typed manuscript in the files of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Prepared by Lynn Beebe Weaver
Project Historian
HABS
August, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. House

The two-story house has a seven-bay front and is two bays deep. The walls are white-painted clapboard; the structural system was not investigated. A one-story porch stretches across the front elevation, featuring turned wooden posts. A two-bay porch on the rear facade has square posts. There are three brick chimneys: two interior end chimneys and one off-center. The windows have two-over-two-light double-hung sash. The low-pitched gable roof is covered with slate. The interior of the structure was not investigated.

B. Small House

The one-and-a-half-story small house measures 24'-5" across its two-bay front by 18'-1" deep. The foundations are unmortared stone. The walls are unpainted clapboard over an oak wood frame. There are two interior end chimneys: one rests on a wooden cabinet on the west wall of the second floor; the other rests on the floor, next to the east wall of the second floor. No doors remain. The first floor has two six-over-six-light double-hung windows and two six-paned casement windows. Above the first-floor windows on the front facade are two three-light horizontal windows between the second floor and the eaves. The gable roof is covered with slate.

The first floor is divided into two rooms and the second floor into three. A winding stairway is located in the northwest corner, connecting the two floors. The board flooring varies in width from 6 to 14". The interior walls were plastered, which has fallen away to reveal both split and sawn lath. There are three vertical-plank doors. The first-floor interior features a continuous chair rail.

C. Site

1. General setting: All of the buildings face north toward a private road, beyond which is the river.
2. Outbuildings: There is a frame bank barn with stone foundation, among other buildings.

Prepared by Roy C. Pledger
Project Supervisor
1969
Alison K. Hoagland
Historian
HABS
1980

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1969 under the direction of Roy C. Pledger (Texas A & M University), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Robert J. Dunay (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), William H. Edwards (University of Illinois), and Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Hidden Lake, Pennsylvania, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian, in 1971. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968 and by Jack E. Boucher in 1969.